

EXAMINING YOUR CSU

LIQUIDPAPER

CONCORDIA STUDENT UNION QUARTERLY
DECEMBER '98 / JANUARY '99 ISSUE

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Student Assets
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CFS

MAKING INTO THE CFS

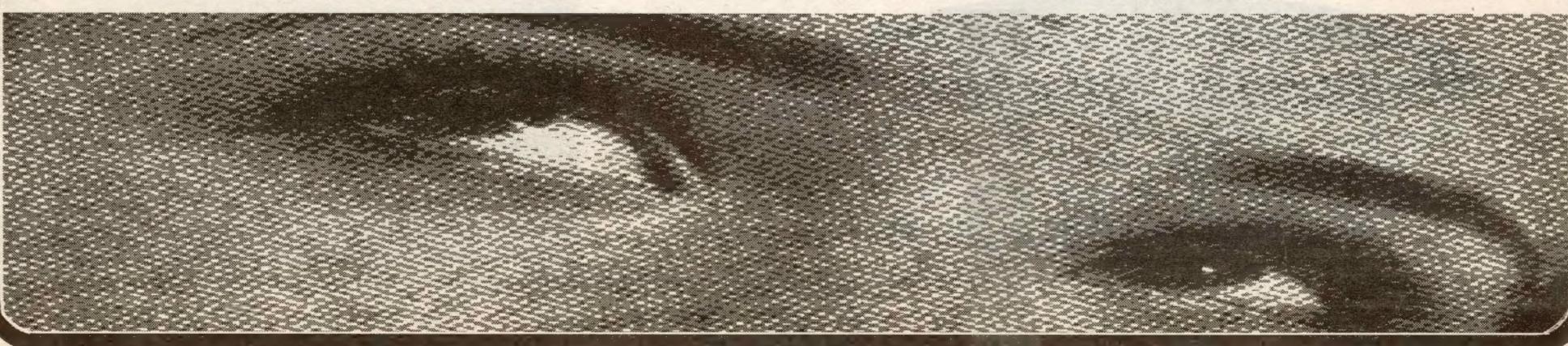
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CONCORDIA STUDENT UNION QUARTERLY STAFF

Chief Editor and Layout Anne-Marie Leger [am_lege@alcor.concordia.ca]
 Co-Editor and Layout Sabine Friesinger [sab_friesinger@alcor.concordia.ca]
 Special Thanks to all contributing writers and not respecting the
 DEADLINE. Contact us @ CSU 848-7474 rm H-637

CUTV needs New Blood

CUTV needs new blood like you. The oldest student run station in Canada is gearing up for the new academic year and has no intention of losing the title of longest run. Situated in the tail end of 6th floor at H651-1 of the hall building and behind the dean's office, CUTV has had a hectic year. "So many things happened last year that I could not keep up," said Station Manager King-Wei Chu.

At CUTV, they edit on professional $\frac{3}{4}$ video, shoot in S-VHS, transfer in various formats and maintain contact with all people in the communication /entertainment industry. They also broadcast in heavy traffic areas throughout Concordia University.

"CUTV is a place to get one's feet wet should they have an interest in this field," said Executive Producer Ismail Bouafia. No fee or related experience is required. The only criteria they ask for, is dedication, willingness to learn and to have fun.

This is a great place to start from scratch and work your way up. Executive positions are available and this serves as a strong selling point on the resume.

"Potential employers look for experience more than anything else these days. A tough market is out there, and experience in a field of related material can't hurt," said Mr. Bouafia.

CUTV helps students to establish a backlog of contacts, meet with people in the business and build relationships. This has strengthened CUTV's name and reputation.

During the summer, CUTV was on hand to capture various guests of *FAN-ASIA* Festival. John Carpenter a veteran horror director who signed his name on the original *Halloween* was filmed on the last day of the festival. Carpenter was in town to present his latest film *Vampires*.

CUTV's next project is the "Montreal World Film Festival", and CUTV does not intend to stop there!

CUTV is proud to be an early stopover for Mitsumi Takahashi of CTV, Rosemary Thompson, David Suzuki and Star Trek's George Takei (Mr. Sulu).

CUTV holds the longest record of continuous broadcast in Canadian History for students. One can never predict whom they meet or what will become of whom they meet.

Join Up Now! CUTV's mission is to help Concordia Students to enrich themselves in the media related career and enter the real world with a vengeance.

Accreditation? What the Heck is Accreditation?

The Student Associations Act, or Law 32 as it's also known, was negotiated between students and the Provincial government in 1983. Any student association, once recognized by the Province as such, is granted various rights under the law.

Accreditation would provide recognition as the representative voice of students, guaranteed space, representation on university committees, and access to information, among others.

As it stands right now, Concordia students do not qualify under Law 32. Concordia students have no guarantees of a seat at the university's decision-making table.

In order for a student association to qualify under the Act, our student association, the Concordia Student Union, must be accredited under the law.

Being accredited also clarifies the issue of who is a member of the CSU. This is particularly important for the Concordia Student Union.

Presently, there is much confusion regarding who is and who isn't a member. These problems exist because the CSU is not accredited - not yet.

The Concordia Student Union is the vehicle that unites all undergraduate Concordia students. It can and should be a very important tool in improving student life and keeping Concordia strong.

The Concordia Student Union was formed in 1979, under the name Concordia University Students' Association (CUSUA). At that time it was the merger of the Sir George William Day Student's Association, the Sir

George William Part-time Student's Association, the Loyola Students' Association and the Loyola Evening Students' Association.

Today it has an operating budget in the neighbourhood of one million dollars. It provides many services (Reggie's, Job and Housing Bank, Loyola Service Station, Computer Lab, Orientation, etc.) and jobs for students.

Who is the CSU?

The Council of the CSU's highest governing body. Council is comprised of representatives from undergraduates in all faculties.

The breakdown of seats is 16 Arts & Science, 5 Commerce, and 3 each for Fine Arts, Engineering & Computer Science, and Independent students. This breakdown is roughly proportionate to the whole student population.

Because there is representation from all faculties, the CSU represents all undergraduates. As set out in the CSU by-law, every undergraduate is a member of the CSU.

There are those, however, who think that the CSU includes only Arts and Science and Fine Arts students. However, Commerce and Administration as well as Engineering and Computer Science students are recognized as members.

Why is it, then, that many people are confused about this?

In 1985 the Engineering and Computer Science Association (ECA) was accredited pursuant to the Student Associations Act.

1989, the Commerce and Administration Students Association did the same.

From the context of the Student Associations Act, this accreditation had an impact specifically at the Faculty level. Just as the Concordia Student Union is incorporated as an association representing students at the university-wide level, CASA and ECA are incorporated as Faculty-level associations.

Politically and legally, the CASA/ECA accreditation should have had no relevance at the university wide level. In legal terms, the status of students in Commerce and Engineering, with respect to their membership in the Concordia Student Union, did not change.

According to the by-laws of the Concordia Student Union, as well as the relevant policies of Concordia University itself, Commerce and Engineering students remain full members of the CSU. Yet, following the CASA/ECA accreditation, much confusion occurred.

In some respects, Commerce and Engineering students were no longer seen as members of the Concordia Student Union. Commerce and

Engineering students can still vote in CSU elections, use all of the services, and qualify for jobs earmarked for CSU members.

Yet, Commerce and Engineering students are presently excluded from any CSU referendum and they do not pay CSU Membership fees.

According to what is stipulated in Law 32, that wasn't supposed to happen. CASA and ECA were supposed to be an additional level of Student organization.

But, it didn't work out that way and that meant many problems. For example, the CSU provides services for 24,000 students that are paid for by only 17,000.

The accreditation of the Concordia Student Union would dispel this confusion and this impact. Accrediting would unite all undergraduates on an equal footing. At the same time clarify the relationship between student associations.

Instead of being fragmented in our different corners, we would be working together to the benefit of student life.

Of course, this would in no way change the important role of CASA and ECA. These associations would continue to do the valuable work they do. All students would have the choice of working specifically in their own Faculty or at the university-wide level.

In the future, students in the faculties of Fine Arts and Arts & Science could follow the same route as that of CASA and ECA. They too, could focus on their own faculties in the same productive and constructive manner.

In the Fine Arts Faculty, this has already started. The Fine Arts Student's Alliance (FASA), newly revitalized under the leadership of President Eva Asselin is working hard to improve the quality of life in that Faculty.

The CSU's accreditation drive will take place during the first two weeks of February. This is an important step in the evolution of student life at Concordia.

Support your union, support yourself; vote YES for Accreditation.

Accreditation
guarantees student
reps on University
committees and more

Every undergrad
is a member of
the CSU

STUDENTS GAGGED @

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

CSU and Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) student delegates present at the October 21st Board of Governors (BoG) meeting were outraged at an obvious display of contempt for student democratic process.

Last March, students voted in a referendum to join the CFS. Normally, once the procedure is completed, affiliation is acknowledged and fees are processed without delay at the beginning of the next regular academic semester.

At Concordia University, undergraduate students voted to join the CFS seven months ago, and fees have yet to be processed. Since then, student delegates have been attempting to get the University to acknowledge the results of the referendum.

Following the referendum, a student appealed the results of the CFS affiliation. In April, the Acting-Dean of Students, Roger Coté, advised student delegates that upon receiving a final decision from the CSU Electoral Board on the appeal, the University would process the CFS membership fees, effective September 1998, retroactively if need be.

In August, the CSU Electoral Board decided on the appeal and granted that the results could not be overturned. The CSU's expectation was for the University to take action once a decision was made on the student's appeal. It did not.

In October, the Dean of Students sent a letter informing the BOG of the CSU's request regarding CFS membership fees. After receiving the Dean's letter, the BoG Chair unconventionally informed the CSU that it must briefly outline the referendum process. The CSU complied and submitted a letter in response.

The CSU was contacted again to submit a letter to the BoG explaining the merits of CFS affiliation. Once again, the CSU complied with the University request and submitted another letter. Neither of these letters were technically required of the CSU, but it in good faith complied nonetheless.

CSU delegates are frustrated not only by the delays, but by the BoG's apparent treatment of the CFS

affiliation by creating additional bureaucratic hoops for the CSU to jump through.

The CFS referendum question was on the same ballot as the request for an increase of the QPIRG fee levy. The QPIRG fee levy was passed at the June 1998 BoG meeting and the fees were processed without delay in September 1998.

There was no reason why the BoG could not, then, have tentatively passed the fee levy upon resolution of the electoral process at the June meeting. Had the CSU known that the University would engage in such manipulation it would have requested a fee levy at the June meeting.

.10 these delays are motivated not out of concern for CSU electoral process, but rather out of opposition to the CFS itself.

At the October 21st BoG meeting, the motion to process the CFS member fee levy was finally put forward for approval, but it didn't acknowledge the fee to be retroactive to September 1998. The following motion was presented at the October 21st meeting: *WHEREAS, during a referendum held in March 1998, undergraduate students of the Fine Arts and Arts and Science Faculties voted in favor of joining the Canadian Federation of Students;*

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Governors authorize collection of a fee of \$0.42 per credit from all the undergraduate students of the Fine Arts and Arts and Science Faculties, for membership in the Canadian Federation of Students, beginning with registration for the Winter 1999 term.

In a closed session at the beginning of the BoG meeting, the BoG chairperson declared that non-BoG members would not be granted speaking rights. A student member on the BoG was prepared to request speaking rights for Mistie Mullarkey, CSU VP-External and CFS-Quebec Chairperson, and to put the motion forward. The BoG decision to deny speaking rights to non-BoG members effectively prevented Mullarkey from speaking on the CFS

issue.

Adding further insult to injury, Rector Lowy tabled the motion stating that there was no student present to address the issue — even though Mullarkey and two student delegates were sitting all of five feet away from the Rector. Rector Lowy also stated that he had no knowledge of the issue — even though both the CSU president, David Smaller, and the Dean of Students had provided the BoG with letters on the matter. The Student delegation left the BoG meeting believing the issue had been summarily dismissed. It was later learned that the BoG Secretary re-introduced the motion upon the subsequent arrival of a graduate student who agreed to move the motion. The BoG adopted the motion unamended.

Given that the QPIRG fee levy, the New administration fee and the Capital Campaign fee were passed without question or delay it seems clear that these delays are motivated not out of concern for CSU electoral process but rather out of opposition to the CFS itself. Concordia students voted to join the CFS last March to formalize a relationship it has had for several years on campaigns concerning tuition fees, student debt and funding to education. Being part of the broader student movement in Canada was an important step to take.

IMPORTANT UPDATE

Since the submission of this article new developments were made. The CFS was notified of the delay caused at the BOG meeting. Action was taken and a threat of a \$30,000 law suit was made. After some investigation and pressure by CFS delegates, the University accepted the motion and CFS fees were retroactively collected. We are now officially proud members of the CFS!



WARNING: New law targets student debts

A Message from your Provincial Executive Rep of the CFS - Rob Green

In the shadows of much boasting about new measures in student financial assistance, the federal government snuck through two new measures that will only add to the student debt crisis: discriminatory changes to the rules governing bankruptcy on loans and restrictions to eligibility for student loans.

When the federal government quietly announced in its 1998 Budget that former students would have to wait ten years before being eligible to discharge their student loan debts through bankruptcy, the justification for its policy was poor.

The only reason it provided was that bankruptcies had risen significantly and that new student aid measures would eliminate the need for former students to apply for bankruptcy.

What is significant about the new ten-year prohibition on bankruptcies is that student loan bankruptcies as a percentage of all consumer bankruptcies have actually declined in recent years.

In fact, 93% of all federal student loans have been repaid since the

programme began in 1964, and the process for discharging student loan debts through bankruptcy is already very rigorous.

A study commissioned by the federal government itself concluded that current debtors "do not seem to be exploiting bankruptcy laws in order to relieve themselves of legitimate debt".

Yet the federal government went ahead with the ten-year prohibition, a rule which will be so detrimental that one

bankruptcy trustee

even predicted that it will cause increased suicides among student loan holders.

Canadians need the federal government to provide them with protection against, not further punishment for, massive student debt and high unemployment rates.

And the federal government did not stop there. Restrictions on students' eligibility for Canada Student Loans were also passed in June 1998.

These restrictions mean that students who are 22 years or older and

who have missed a payment for 90 or more days on three separate occasions (on loans or debts of 1,000 or more), in the three years before they apply, could be denied a student loan.

It is unfair that students who fall prey to aggressive on-campus credit card advertising, or have a mix-up with their hydro utility, or miss a payment on their long-distance telephone bill might be denied a student loan, especially when the federal government continues to offer inadequate solutions to the student debt crisis.

Student loans are a necessary source of funding for 60% of Canada's post-secondary students

Both the changes to the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act and eligibility criteria for student loans were made despite opposition from the post-secondary education community and despite a lack of evidence that students are willfully, widely delinquent on loan payments.

If its '1998 Education Budget' is more than just a pre-millennial haxo, the federal government will immediately reverse its decisions to restrict eligibility for student loans and access to bankruptcy on student loans.

Student protest movement - Creative Activism - Lindsay Scully

Concordia students hit the streets of Quebec City with about 500 other protesters on November 18, to demand a reorganization of the Quebec loans and bursaries program.

The march started at CEGEP Francois-Xavier Garneau and wound its way through the city to arrive in front of the National Assembly a little over an hour later.

Once there, speeches were heard by representatives from various organizations including the Canadian Federation of Students and the Mouvement pour le Droit d'Education.

This segment was culminated by protesters setting fire to a cutout of Education Minister Pauline Marois.

Later, students made their way down to a busy intersection and blocked traffic as they shouted "So-so-so Solidarite!"

Once again a fire was started with the sacrifice this time being a

campaign placard of Liberal leader Jean Charest.

Protesters danced around the huge bonfire to the beats of drums being played in the background. Soon after this fire was started, both the fire department and the riot police showed up.

Within about forty five minutes or an hour the throngs of students had dispersed and started heading home.

Although a small part of the group, Concordia students were able to make their own impact. Several students dressed as a banker, Premier Bouchard, and Prime Minister Chretien played out a skit, "beating" on a fellow student who was weighted down by a ball and chain.

This "show," which was also performed during the CFS Day of Action has made Concordia students well known by protesters at many schools in the province.

Help us stand united and get government recognition

Vote YES for Accreditation
It's that easy!



\$

WHO SAYS CONCORDIA STUDENTS DON'T HAVE ASSETS?

By Laura Levesque, VP Finance for the CSU

The Concordia Student Union (CSU) is a financially sound not-for-profit student run and student owned organization.

The Concordia University Students Association Corporation (CUSACorp) is composed of the Mezz Café and Reggies.

The CSU is the sole shareholder of CUSACorp. The CSU is run and owned through membership fees collected from students.

See a trend? Students own Reggies, the Mezz Café (now operated by Java U), the Downtown and Loyola Service Centers, the free phones, the CSU photocopiers and fax services, the Job and Housing Bank, the Health Plan, the Loyola Computer Lab, the Hive and rent to Travel Cuts.

This is not to mention the many spaces operated by groups and associations, various booth spaces and student promotional wall space. Our finances are in line with what we presently offer as services. However, we are beginning to feel some pressure from the \$1.2M deficit owed to the CSU from CUSACorp.

STAYIN' ALIVE

CSU REVIVES
THE HIVE

Condordia Student Union is spreading the word: the Hive's alive. "The ball is rolling and we are pleased to see that life is coming back at Loyola campus," said Rob Green, VP administration.

The space had been sitting there for storage for nearly three years. "It was accumulating junk and all sorts of weird things," Green said.

After realizing that there was no real place to go on the Loyola campus, unless you were a piece of junk, students and members of the Committee for the Revitalization of Loyola approached CSU to help them come up with a project to re-open the Hive in the Campus Centre.

CUSACorp was established as a profit-making wing of the CSU over 15 years ago. The problem is CUSACorp has never, I repeat never, turned a profit. In fact Reggies and the Mezz consistently lost money and the cumulative loss is now \$1.2M.

Last year the CSU advanced CUSACorp \$162,795 and in 1997 we advanced \$161,212 to keep CUSACorp afloat. These losses are beginning to reflect negatively on the CSU's books.

It's important that all services be operated efficiently and that the CSU invest its resources in services that are appreciated by a great number of students. This was the philosophy behind taking the initiative to allow professionals to run the Mezz Café.

The Mezz lost approximately \$53,000 last year. This year the CSU will increase revenues by just under \$100,000 given the \$46,000 steady income from rent.

Now what about Reggies you ask? Well we have hired a new manager, Charles Bennett, and we are in the process of hiring a general manager to oversee all managerial issues pertaining

to the CSU and CUSACorp.

We feel it is essential to structure the CSU to provide continuity and cohesiveness through hiring full and part-time personnel who will be around long-term.

The CSU is also taking measures to dissolve CUSACorp, meaning that Reggies and the Mezz would be run directly by the CSU. There are many benefits to this strategy such as the potential income from the selling of debt, a decrease in the amount of taxes paid (profit making companies taxes are much greater than not-for-profit organizations), better control mechanisms over the expenses and a reduction in the duplication of bookkeeping work.

Even though efforts are being made to help Reggies succeed, we need support and ideas from the student body. However, we do not have any money to invest.

We need inexpensive creative ideas to help build a student bar where students want to hang out. Any suggestions? Why not brain storm over beers at Reggies?

NOW OPEN

CSU

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The opening of the Service Station at Loyola is just one of many CSU initiatives to create stronger liaisons between Sir George William campus and Loyola campus.

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If you have any suggestions
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Otaku Animation Club

C Q E U U B M I F F E

The OTAKU ANIMATION CLUB is more than just entertainment by way of animated shows. It is an opportunity for students to explore Japanese culture and history, as well Japanese ideologies and thoughts. It exposes Concordia students to Japanese geography, historical events, different literary traditions and artistic styles. In short, it teaches as well as entertains.

After several of our shows, it is more likely that members of our club will easily pick up a few words in Japanese.

The animations reveal general political and international points of view concerning Japan and the world.

A prime example is *Rurouni Kenshin*, a series we are presently screening at our meetings. This story takes place during a significant transition period in Japan's history. In the early Meiji era, Japan's samurai class found itself to be in a new, modernizing Japan that no longer had any need for their traditional role in society. This is the story of one samurai, Kenshin, who refuses to

disappear and does good deeds, without killing, in antonement for his bloody past. This series is extremely popular for its great swordplay, its cry for peace and social justice, and its warm characters. It also provides a wealth of information about Japanese customs and history.

The Otaku Animation Club is not just a club for leisure viewing. It is a club where all are welcome and all enjoy themselves while broadening their horizons. This is something we do happily, though a lot of hard work and determination, for the benefits of our members and to help promote both Japanese Animation and Concordia University.

We would like to hold a Japanese Animation convention at Concordia this year provided sufficient resources and interest can be gathered. Volunteers should contact immediately.

You can visit our website at <http://alcor.concordia.ca/~otaku> or contact us via email at otaku@alcor.concordia.ca



Wise Words from the
Concordia Collective for
Palestinian Human Rights
Basil Keilani

What do Kosovo, East Timor, Tibet, and Palestine have in common? Their problem, as we all share one world.

Their respective populations are faced with ethnocide or cultural destruction; a denial of self-determination and arbitrary arrests.

We, the Concordia Collective for Palestinian Human Rights (CCPHR), recognize that we are not the only ones suffering injustice and we seek liberation for our people, as we seek it for other nations suffering.

It is a universal call to Canadians of all backgrounds. People should view these issues as part of

Help contribute to the uplifting of Palestinians. We invite Canadians of Arabic and non-Arabic background to contribute to our endeavours of bringing liberation to Palestinians.

There should exist an equality between Christians, Muslims, and Jews. This can be achieved by promoting tolerance and educating each other about various cultures.

"Peace is the fruit of justice." Isaiah b_keila@alcor.concordia.ca

For your info:

Check out Concordia's chapter of Amnesty International - an active group concern with human rights.

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